

No. 8-22/81 FRY (COORD)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRI. & CO-OPERATION)

New Delhi, the 16th September 1982

To
The Chief Secretaries of
all States/Union Territories.

Sir,

Sub:- Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 procedure for submitting proposals to the central Government for release of forest Lands required for Laying of transmission lines, pipes etc.

I am directed to say that under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation Act, 1980), the prior approval of the Central Government has to be obtained before a state Government or any other authority make an order directing dereservation of any reserved forest for use of any forest land for a non-forest purpose. Proposals for obtaining such prior approval are required to be submitted in the prescribed proforma as laid down in the Forest (Conservation) Rules 1981.

However after careful consideration, it has been decided that in cases containing proposals for laying of transmission lines or pipes for drinking water supply schemes which do not involve any felling or cutting of trees, it would be necessary for the State Government or other authority to submit the proposals in the prescribed proforma. In order to expedite disposal of such cases, proposals of this type may be sent to the Central Government in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation with the following particulars.

- (i) Purpose for which forest land is required to be used
- (ii) Extent of forest land.
- (iii) States of forest land (ie. whether reserved forest protected forest or any other class of forest)
- (iv) Whether the forest land forms part of any national park wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve or any other reserve or forms part of the habitat of any endangered or threatened species of Flora and fauna?

- (v) Whether no alternative alignment is possible to avoid or minimize use of forest land and whether the required area is the minimum needed for the purpose? A certificate in this regard furnished by the concerned Divl. Forest Officer after an inspection of the spot must be submitted along with the proposal.

3. It is to be noted that this procedure would apply to only such proposals for laying of transmission lines or pipes for drinking water supply which do not involve cutting or felling of any trees. The covering letter should already clearly indicate that no cutting or felling of trees is involved. In all other cases, the normal procedure laid down in the Forest (Conservation) Rules would continue to apply.

Yours faithfully,

(N.D.Bachkheta)
Inspector General of Forests.

Copy to:- The Chief Conservator of Conservator of Forests All States/Union Territories.

/TRUE COPY/

For Conservator of Forests, Trichur.

1.14/12.